

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 14469

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FOR GARRISON FROM MATLOCK

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJ: OFFICIAL-INFORMAL

1. APPRECIATE YOUR ASKING MEL LEVITSKY IF HE CAN PROVIDE SOME ADVICE ON FOLLOWING MATTER. I AM TRYING TO ARRANGE SMALL DINNER WITH SOME WRITERS WITH TOWNSEND HOOPES AS PER STATE 224522. WE ARE THINKING OF INCLUDING ABOUT FIVE WRITERS FOR--HOPEFULLY--RELAXED AND INFORMAL DISCUSSION. I WOULD LIKE ANY ADVICE MEL MAY HAVE ON WHOM IT IS SAFE TO MIX WITH AKSENOV AND VOZNESENSKY. LEV KOPELEV WAS MENTIONED IN INCOMING, BUT I AM NOT SURE HIS PRESENCE WOULD NOT BE EMBARRASSMENT TO OTHERS: PERHAPS IT WOULD BE BETTER TO ARRANGE FOR MEETING KOPELEV ELSEWHERE. DOES MEL SEE ANY PROBLEM WITH INCLUSION OF CHINGIZ AITMATOV (ASSUMING HE IS IN TOWN)? AND WHAT ABOUT VLADIMIR SOLOUKHIN, WHO IS AN OLD ACQUAINTANCE? I KNOW THAT HE REPRESENTS A DIFFERENT PHILOSOPHIC TENDENCY, BUT DON'T KNOW WHETHER THERE MAY ALSO BE POTENTIAL PERSONALITY CONFLICTS. PRESEL HAS ALSO RECOMMENDED ANATOLY GLADILIN, WHOM I DON'T KNOW. ANY ADVICE ON THESE POINTS WOULD BE MOST APPRECIATED, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER APPROPRIATE NAMES THAT MAY COME TO MIND. WOULD IT BE DESIRABLE TO "CLEAR" LIST IN ADVANCE WITH AKSENOV OR VOZNESENSKY? APPRECIATE REPLY BY PRIORITY OR IMMEDIATE, SO WE CAN GET BALL ROLLING OVER THE WEEKEND.

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2. FURTHER ON THE JOHN VAESSEN STORY - DURING A MEETING AT

THE CIVIL AVIATION MINISTRY OCT 9, PAVLOV'S DEPUTY SAMORUKHOV TOLD MELENCAMP THAT VAESSEN WAS NOT RPT NOT SUBJECTED TO ANY SURVEILLANCE BY SOVIET SECURITY ORGANS DURING HIS RESIDENCE HERE. SAMORUKHOV DID NOTE THAT THE "COMPETENT AUTHORITIES" HAD INFORMATION THAT VAESSEN WAS WELL ACQUAINTED WITH ONE L.N. KURENKOV, A THIRTY-FOUR YEAR OLD MUSCOVITE ARRESTED FOR IKON SMUGGLING LAST JUNE AND THAT THE TWO MET ONCE A WEEK OR SO. ACCORDING TO SAMORUKHOV, RECORDS FROM OKTYABRSKAYA PLOSHCHAD' COMMISSION STORE SHOW THAT VAESSEN FREQUENTLY BOUGHT OLD PAINTINGS THERE, WHILE THE MINISTRY OF CULTURE HAS NEVER BEEN REQUESTED BY VAESSEN TO ISSUE AN EXPORT LICENSE FOR ANYTHING. SAMORUKHOV SAID THAT WERE VAESSEN IN MOSCOW, HE WOULD PROBABLY BE ASKED TO TESTIFY AT THE KURENKOV TRIAL, WHICH SHOULD BEGIN SHORTLY, AND THAT THE QUESTIONS PUT TO HIM WOULD PROBABLY HAVE TOUCHED ON THE DISPOSITION OF ANYTHING VAESSEN MAY HAVE RECEIVED FROM KURENKOV. SAMORUKHOV CONCLUDED THAT THE LOCAL AUTHORITIES DO NOT PRESENTLY HAVE ANY INTENTION OF SEEKING VAESSEN OUT OR OF ATTEMPTING TO OBTAIN TESTIMONY FROM HIM SINCE HE IS NO LONGER IN THE USSR.

3. RE PARA 5, STATE 239233, THIS IS ALL NEWS TO US -- WE HAVE HEARD NOTHING ABOUT IT BEFORE. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY NEED FOR ADDITIONAL PRIESTS IN MOSCOW; INDEED, RESIDENT CHAPLAINS PROBABLY HAVE SMALLER NUMBER OF CUMMUNICANTS THAN IS NORMAL IN U.S. AS FOR LENINGRAD, ONE SHOULD CONSULT NEUBERT, BUT I DOUBT THAT THE COMMUNITY IS LARGE ENOUGH TO JUSTIFY A RESIDENT PRIEST THERE. OUR REAL NEED HERE IS FOR AUTHORIZATION TO EXPLORE POSSIBILITY FOR CHURCH FACILITY (NOT RPT NOT AT USG EXPENSE) FROM SOVIETS. PRESENT SITUATION IS HIGHLY UNSATISFACTORY, PARTICULARLY FOR PROTESTANTS (WHO ARE PRESSING HARD FOR ACTION) AND BRITISH AND AMERICAN AMBASSADORS. WE FEEL STRONGLY THAT THE TIME HAS COME TO SEE IF MORE ADEQUATE AND APPROPRIATE FACILITIES CANNOT BE OBTAINED. DAVE SWARTZ KNOWS SITUATION AND CAN DISCUSS WITH THOSE INTERESTED.
STOESSEL

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